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APR 10 2006

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Plate, et al. :  
Application No. 09/768,817 :  
Filed: January 25, 2001 :  
Attorney Docket No. 9392-043-999 :  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
MATCHING BIDS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.181, filed March 24, 2006, requesting that the Office withdraw the holding of abandonment of the above-identified application.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.181 is **GRANTED**.

This application was held abandoned for failure to respond in a timely manner to the non-final Office action, mailed August 11, 2005, which set forth an extendable three (3) month period for reply. The Office contended that this application became abandoned on November 12, 2005 for failure to reply to the August 11, 2005 non-final Office action. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on February 23, 2006.

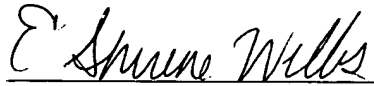
Petitioners assert an amendment and a request for a three month extension of time were timely Express Mailed to and received by the Office on February 13, 2006. The undersigned finds this assertion completely convincing as the se documents are present in the application file and Office financial records show that the required extension of time fee was charged.<sup>1</sup>

The petition under 37 CFR 1.181 is **granted** and the Notice of Abandonment is **vacated**. No petition fee has been or will be charged in connection with this matter.

Accordingly, the application file will be forwarded to Technology Center A.U. 3624 for consideration of the amendment filed February 13, 2006.

<sup>1</sup> As petitioners requested on February 20, 2006, a small entity three month extension of time fee has been retained. The excess money (large entity fee – small entity fee) submitted on February 13, 2006 was credited to petitioners' deposit account on March 15, 2004.

Telephone inquiries pertaining to this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. Shirene Willis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

E. Shirene Willis  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy